

Remarks

Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 is patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable as presented in the Amendment and Response mailed October 11, 2001.

CONCLUSION

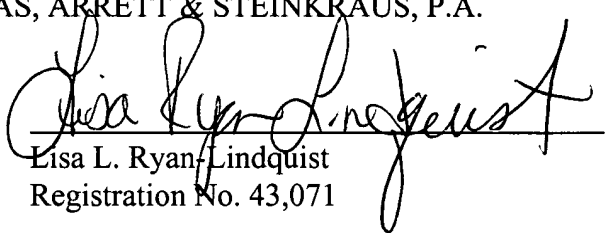
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early allowance of the claims as presented. Claims 1-8 and 23-30 are pending in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No.: 09/477,236

Marked Up Version

MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) An insertable medical device having a protective surface coating, said coating comprising [a polymer selected from the group consisting of] at least one thermoplastic polymer, [polymers and] at least one thermosetting [polymers] polymer, or mixture thereof and said coating being noncontinuous on said medical device.

27. (New) A dilatation balloon [having improved durability] formed from a thermoplastic polymer, said balloon having a protective coating applied to said dilatation balloon in a substantially uniform discontinuous pattern.

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